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PATENT
Atty. Docket No. PTK-228
(465/171)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Theriault et al. CONFIRMATION NO.: 3243
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/643,036 ART UNIT: 3726
FILING DATE: August 18, 2003 EXAMINER: Eric B. Compton
TITLE: Plate Handling With Thermal Tensioning

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

In response to the Office action mailed June 15, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit the following Amendment and Response. Applicants believe that no fees are due, but the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendment to the Drawings are found on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

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limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter, and amend claims 6 and 11 by rewriting these claims in independent form, including all the limitations of respective base claims 1 and 9. Applicants note that the allowable claims share the advantage discussed in the foregoing paragraph with respect to the reduced risk of thermally-induced plate distortions, as compared to the approach disclosed in the cited art.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing reason and amendments to claims 6 and 11, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 6 and 11, and their dependents, claims 7, 8, 12, and 13.

CONCLUSION

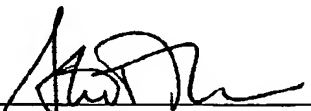
In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-4 and 6-16 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite the allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2004
Reg. No. 33,497

Tel. No.: (617) 310-8108
Fax No.: (617) 248-7100

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Steven J. Frank
Attorney for Applicants
Testa, Hurwitz, & Thibault, LLP
High Street Tower
125 High Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110